United Nations A/HRC/32/L.34

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
28 June 2016

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Angola,* Azerbaijan,* Bangladesh, Belgium, Ethiopia, Fiji,* France, Georgia, Germany, Haiti,* Ireland,* Kenya, Kiribati,* Marshall Islands,* Micronesia (Federated States of),* Peru,* Philippines, Portugal, Romania,* Seychelles,* State of Palestine,* Sudan,* Sweden,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia,* Viet Nam: draft resolution

32/... Human rights and climate change

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] including, inter alia, its Goal 13, which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impact,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on human rights and climate change,

Reaffirming the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objectives and principles thereof, and emphasizing that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights as enunciated in the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention,[2]

Reaffirming also the commitment to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[2] FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, dec.1/CP.16.

including, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, through long-term cooperative action, in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

Acknowledging that, as stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging also that, as stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impact on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty,

Affirming that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international, regional and national policymaking in the area of climate change, promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes,

Emphasizing that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of implications, which can increase with greater warming, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right to development, and recalling that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Recognizing that climate change poses an existential threat that has already had a negative impact on the fulfilment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Expressing concern that, while these implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the adverse effects of climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, national or social origin, birth or other status and disability,

Recognizing that children are among the most vulnerable to climate change, which may have serious impact on their enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, access to education, adequate food, adequate housing, safe drinking water and sanitation,

Looking forward to the day of general discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's rights and the environment, to be held on 23 September 2016,

Expressing concern that countries lacking the resources for implementing their adaptation plans and programmes of action and effective adaptation strategies may suffer from higher exposure to extreme weather events, in both rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries, including those in least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries with more climate vulnerability,

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of migrants and other non-nationals who may face challenges associated with implementing appropriate responses in extreme weather conditions owing to their status and who may have limited access to information and services, resulting in barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind, and that parties should, when taking action to address climate

change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,

Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities,

Recognizing the urgent need for early ratification, acceptance or approval and full implementation of the Paris Agreement,

Urging the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not already done so to consider ratifying and implementing the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol,

Noting the importance for some of the concept of "climate justice" when taking action to address climate change,

Welcoming the holding of the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2016, in Marrakech,

Welcoming also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and its references to human rights,

Noting the work of the United Nations Children's Fund related to environmental sustainability for children, including its work to improve the enjoyment of rights by children, especially the most disadvantaged, and to promote children as critical agents of change, including its report on how children, particularly those in most vulnerable situations, are affected by climate change and the concrete steps needed to be taken to protect them,[3]

Welcoming the convening at the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council of the panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and related policies, lessons learned and good practices, and noting the summary report on the panel discussion prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[4]

Taking note of the analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 29/15 of 2 July 2015,[5]

Encouraging States, as appropriate, to integrate policies on health and human rights in their climate actions at all levels, including their national plans of action for climate mitigation and adaptation,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment focusing on climate change and human rights,[6]

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[3] *Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children* (UNICEF, New York, November 2015).
[4] A/HRC/32/24.
[5] A/HRC/31/36.
[6] A/HRC/31/52.

Emphasizing the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on mitigation, adaptation and the provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries, as appropriate, to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts to minimize the adverse impact of climate change on present and future generations,

Noting the importance of facilitating meaningful interaction between the human rights and climate change communities at both the national and international levels in order to build capacity to deliver responses to climate change that respect and promote human rights, taking into account the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action,

Noting also the establishment and the advocacy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum,

Noting further the establishment and work of regional and subregional initiatives on climate change, including the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change and the International Solar Alliance,

1. *Expresses concern* that climate change has contributed to the increase of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events, and that these events have adverse effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Emphasizes* the urgent importance of continuing to address, as they relate to States' human rights obligations, the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly in developing countries and the people whose situation is most vulnerable to climate change, especially children in a situation of extreme poverty, and deteriorating livelihood conditions;

3. *Calls upon* States to continue and enhance international cooperation and assistance for adaptation measures to help developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and persons in vulnerable situations, including children most at risk;

4. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work for the thirty-fourth session, on the basis of the different elements contained in the present resolution, a panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the rights of the child and related policies, lessons learned and good practices;

5. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with and taking into account the views of States, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and other relevant international organizations and intergovernmental bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other stakeholders, to conduct, from within existing resources, a detailed analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child, to be submitted to the Council prior to its thirty-fifth session and to be further informed by the panel discussion mandated in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its session following the panel discussion, a summary report, including any recommendations stemming therefrom, for consideration of further follow-up action;

7. *Invites* special procedure mandate holders, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society organizations, to contribute actively to the panel discussion;

8. *Encourages* relevant special procedure mandate holders to continue to consider the issue of climate change and human rights, including the adverse impact of climate change on the enjoyment of children's rights, within their respective mandates;

9. *Calls upon* States to consider, among other aspects, human rights within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

10. *Also calls upon* States to integrate a gender perspective in pursuing mitigation and adaptation responses to the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of every boy and girl;

11. *Decides* to consider the possibility of organizing follow-up events on climate change and human rights;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide all the human and technical assistance necessary for the effective and timely realization of the above-mentioned panel discussion, the summary report thereon, and the analytical study;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.